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DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and other records

for 1954.

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

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DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Byland Lodge,
Durham.
September, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1954, the second since I assumed office. It is the 59th year since the Council first met in 1895.

The health of the people as measured by the vital statistics is shown to have been satisfactory during the year, and this is supported by impressions gained in other ways. Particularly pleasing is the fact that the Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded in the District. It is, however, higher than that for England and Wales as a whole.

The year proved uneventful so far as outbreak of infectious disease is concerned but it is regrettable that cases of Diphtheria continue to occur. Attention is drawn in the relevant section of the Report to the continued need for immunisation against this disease.

Regarding environmental factors the most important problem during the year has been that arising from the atmospheric pollution in the Southern part of the District. It has proved incapable of solution by other than long term measures.

I have pleasure in taking this opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen for your support and encouragement. I acknowledge gratefully, too, the co-operation and assistance of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. C. Taylor and the staff of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. GORDEN DRUMMOND,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	34,587
Population (Registrar General's mid-year Home population)	...	...	...	...	...	34,860
Number of inhabited houses (1954) according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	10,486
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£139,251 0s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£502. 6s. 10d.
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors—						
Births	...	...	...	...	...	0.98
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	1.18

Live Births :

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per 1,000 pop.
Legitimate	... 583	298	285	
Illegitimate	... 19	7	12	
Total ...	... 602	305	297	17.3 adjusted 16.9

Still Births :

Legitimate	... 15	8	7	{ 0.4 per 1,000 pop. 24.3 per 1,000 live and still births.
Illegitimate	... —	—	—	

Deaths :

(All causes)	... 394	230	164	11.3 adjusted 13.3.
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Infant Mortality : (Deaths of children under 1 year of age).

				Rate per 1,000 live births
Legitimate	... 17	11	6	
Illegitimate	... 1	—	1	29.9.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	68
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	...	6

Section A—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

(1) Natural and Social Conditions.

Area. 34,587 Acres. The District consists of eighteen parishes surrounding for the most part the City of Durham and the Urban District of Brandon and Byshottles. It borders also with Lanchester, Chester-le-Street, Easington and Sedgefield Rural Districts and Hetton, Spennymoor and Crook and Willington Urban Districts.

Industries. Mainly Coal Mining and Agriculture.

Population. The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 34,860, an increase of 430 from 1953.

Inhabited Houses. According to the Rate Books the number of inhabited houses in the District is 10,486.

(2) Vital Statistics.

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors.

Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.98
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.18

These figures are a means of adjusting the rates for births and deaths, so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales as a whole, in so far as distribution by age and sex is concerned. The adjusted rates are those to be compared with the rates for England and Wales and with the similarly adjusted rates for other areas.

Births. During the year 602 births were registered, 305 males and 297 females. Of these 19 were illegitimate.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 16.9 is slightly lower than the rate for last year (18.2).

Table I shows the comparison of the Live and Still Birth Rates with those for England and Wales and for the County of Durham, and Table II the figures over the past 10 years in comparison with those for England and Wales over the same period.

Deaths. 394 deaths were registered during the year, 230 male and 164 females. This was an increase of 70 from 1953. The death rate (adjusted) of 13.3 is to be compared with that of 11.2 for 1953, and 11.3 for England and Wales (Tables I and II).

Table III shows the individual causes of death. Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 150 of the deaths registered or 38% as opposed to 33% in 1953.

Cancer Deaths totalled 68 or 17% of all deaths. The corresponding figure for 1953 was 15%. The cancer death rate is 1.95 per 1,000 population, the figure for England and Wales as a whole being 2.04.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were 5, a decrease of 3 from the previous year. One death from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis was registered.

Infant Mortality—(Death of children under 1 year of age).
(Tables I, II and IV).

The rate of 29.9 per 1,000 live births is the lowest recorded in this District. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 is 25.5.

The previous lowest yearly rate recorded in the District was 31.1 in 1950. Last year it was 39.5.

Eighteen children died before reaching one year of age, as compared with 24 last year.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are—

1945	...	26	1950	...	16
1946	...	36	1951	...	28
1947	...	31	1952	...	21
1948	...	39	1953	...	24
1949	...	30	1954	...	18

and these numbers should be read in conjunction with the rates given in Table II and should be borne in mind in assessing the change in the rate over the years.

As the number of Infant deaths each year is comparatively small, too great significance should not be attached to a single rate.

Reference to Table II, however, shows that the rate is falling and is now considerably below the average rate for the previous ten years.

Of the 18 children who died before reaching one year of age, 10 were less than one month old, all in fact, being less than one week old.

Thus more than half the infant deaths occurred in the first week. They were due mainly to prematurity. Of the 8 children who died aged between 1 month and 1 year, seven died of acute respiratory diseases.

Maternal Mortality It is again very pleasing to report that (as in the previous seven years) there were no maternal deaths during the year.

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of
Health R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health—City of
Durham, Urban District of
Brandon and Byshottles. Assist-
ant County Medical Officer,
County Durham.

Chief Sanitary
Inspector A. C. TAYLOR, Esq., M.S.I.A.,
C.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspectors ... W. C. BREWER, Esq., C.R.San.I.,
Dip.P.H.H.
A. R. MOORHOUSE, Esq., M.S.I.A.,
C.R.San.I.

The Sanitary Inspectors possess the Diploma of the Royal
Sanitary Institute and the Certificate for the Inspection of
Meat and other Foods.

Rodent Officer MR. W. SAYER.

Health Office.

Chief Clerk MR. A. WILSON.

Clerk Typist MRS. M. E. JORDAN.

2. Laboratory Services.

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Department of Pathology.
- (ii) Public Health Laboratory, Government Building,
Ponteland Road, Newcastle, 5.
- (iii) Public Analyst, Victoria Road, Darlington.

3. General Medical Services.

Durham County Executive Council, 20, New Elvet, Durham.

4. Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

Durham Hospital Management Committee, Dryburn Hospital,
Durham.

(a) General.

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
- (iii) Crossgate Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).

(b) Maternity.

- (i) Dryburn Hospital.
- (ii) Croxdale Maternity Hospital.

(c) Infectious.

- (i) Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital.
- (ii) Langley Park Isolation (Smallpox).

(d) Tuberculosis.

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
- (iii) Chest Clinic, Earl's House Hospital.
- (iv) Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, Gilesgate Hospital.

(e) Mental.

- (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield.
- (ii) Aycliffe Hospital.
- (iii) Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
- (iv) Earl's House Hospital.
- (v) Crossgate Hospital, Durham.

(f) Convalescent.

Brandon Hospital

(g) Venereal Disease Clinic.

County Hospital, Durham.

5. Durham County Council Health Services.

- (a) School Health Service.
- (b) Ambulance Service—County Ambulance Headquarters, Framwellgate Moor, Durham.
- (c) Health Visiting.
- (d) Home Nursing.
- (e) Domiciliary Midwifery.
- (f) Domestic Help.
- (g) Vaccination and Immunisation.

(h) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(i) Child Welfare Centres—

Belmont—Parish Hall.
 Coxhoe—Social and Literary Institute.
 Durham—14, Old Elvet.
 Gilesgate—Vane Tempest Hall.
 Sherburn Hill—Miners' Welfare Hall.

(ii) Artificial Sunlight Clinics—

Coxhoe.
 Durham.

(iii) Birth Control Clinics—

Coxhoe.
 Durham.

(iv) Post Natal Clinics—

Coxhoe.
 Durham.

(i) Prevention of illness, care and after care, loan of equipment and appliances.

(j) Accommodation under Part III National Assistance Act, Crossgate Hospital.

Section C.—1. Water Supply.

The Durham County Water Board provides an abundant piped water supply of highly satisfactory quality to most of the District, the properties served being connected directly to the public water mains, there being no stand-pipes.

Other supplies throughout the District are :—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Supply.</i>	<i>Source.</i>
Brancepeth	... (i) Brancepeth Village.	Spring. Filtered and stored, piped. (Water Board supply available as alternative).
	(ii) Wooley Close Farm. South Brandon Farm. Brawn's Den Farm. Weather Hill Farm.	Well. Pumped, chlorinated stored and piped.

Framwellgate Moor	(i)	Frankland Farm.	Spring. Hydraulic ram. Piped.
	(ii)	Frankland Park Farm.	Spring. Collected to tank.
Pittington	...	Hillside Farm.	Well.
		Elemore Cottages.	Pumped and piped.
Witton Gilbert	(i)	Cote Hill.	
		Fell Houses.	Spring.
	(ii)	Laverick Hall.	Spring.
Cassop	...	Heather Lad Inn.	Spring.
Kelloe	(i)	Southern Law Farm.	Spring.
	(ii)	Kelloe Law Farm.	Colliery Supply, piped.
Shadforth	...	Hare Hill Farm.	Colliery supply. Pumped and piped.

Water Samples.

Table V shows the number of water samples taken during the year, classified according to the results of examination.

Brancepeth Parish—The samples, taken over a period, were from houses in Brancepeth Village and from the filter bed and reservoir of the local supply. The results, considered in conjunction with information gained from inspection of the whole system led to the conclusion that the supply was not unsatisfactory.

Framwellgate Moor Parish—There are two farms involved, with separate supplies, both of which were sampled. One of these supplies was unsatisfactory.

2. Sewerage.

The following details have been kindly supplied by the Surveyor, Mr. K. G. Miller.

(a) SHERBURN SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS EXTENSIONS.

The informal enquiry was held on 13th February, 1951, and approval given on 5th September, 1951. The estimated cost is £51,753. 8s. 8d. Work was commenced in April 1954 and at the end of the year was still in progress. The sewer works were nearing completion as were the disposal works, excavation and foundations.

(b) COXHOE AND BOWBURN SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Minister agreed to the completion of the preparation of the scheme.

(c) GENERAL.

Alterations and improvements have been carried out to the Council's sewers and sewage disposal works, including the provision of storm relief works, reconstruction of sewers, renewal of distributing machinery and general maintenance in an effort to improve the standard of the effluent from the works.

Improvements to sewers and works are constantly under review.

3. Atmospheric Pollution.

In March serious atmospheric pollution was found to be occurring in the village of Coxhoe, dust being deposited to a considerable extent on the village and the area around. The source was evident in the tall chimney of the recently completed rotary kiln for the processing of dolomite. Analysis of a sample did, in fact, reveal that it was consistent with dust derived from some operation in which Dolomite is used, for the respective proportions of Calcium Carbonate and Magnesium Carbonate were very nearly theoretical.

Later it was found that the dust was being deposited over a larger area, Quarrington Hill, too, being affected. Not all the dust came from the chimney, quantities were blown from the adjacent tall conical spoil heaps.

All efforts to have the nuisance abated failed. However, following on research with a view to installing plant for that purpose, plans were prepared and orders placed.

It is apparent that over two years will elapse between the recognition of the existence of the nuisance and the installation of plant, which it is expected, will abate it.

During this period the population affected is exposed to all the discomfort occasioned by dust deposition at the rate of about 60 tons per square mile per month and the unknown hazard to health involved in this state of affairs.

The question arises as to whether this could have been foreseen and prevented. In this connection it is interesting to note the proposals for new legislation which include provision for "prior approval" of plans and specifications of new fuel-burning installations.

Section C.

4. Sanitary Inspection.

Below is a summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

I. GENERAL SUMMARY.

	No. of inspections.	No. of informal notices served	No. of statutory notices served	Defects remedied after notice
Housing :—				
Public Health and Housing Acts	1559	81	4	68
Overcrowding	90	28	—	20
Sanitary Conveniences :—				
Insufficient	3	1	—	—
Defective	10	7	—	4
Drainage	309	26	—	20
Water supply	89	8	—	5
Food premises	151	—	—	—
Shops Act	24	1	—	1
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	68	2	—	2
Slaughter Houses—Private	886	17	—	16
Tents, Vans, etc.	19	—	—	—
Factories and workplaces ...	61	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	2	—	1	1
Insanitary Ashpits and receptacles	4	1	—	1
Offensive accumulations ...	3	3	—	3
Smoke nuisances	4	1	—	1
Prevention of Damage by				
Pests Act 1949	180	24	—	24
Dirty Houses	7	7	—	6
Privy Conversions	105	27	7	34
Dustbins	—	480	—	384
	3574	714	12	590

Ashpit-privies converted into waterclosets	none
Ash-closets converted into waterclosets	34
Total number of waterclosets in District	10,074
Total number of ashclosets in District	648
Total number of ashpit-privies in District	60

DISINFECTION—Disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants was carried out in houses where infectious disease was notified. During 1954 27 houses were so disinfected.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—At the end of the year there were 9,778 houses on the water carriage system out of a total number of 10,486 houses, which represents approximately 93.2% on water carriage system. There were still 708 ashclosets and privies at the end of the year. The great majority of these were in houses scheduled for demolition, and houses in outlying parts of the District which have no sewage facilities.

During the year 34 ashclosets were converted to waterclosets
109 ashclosets were abolished during the year.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE—The removal of refuse was carried out by direct labour in all Parishes [with the exception of Brancepeth, Hett and Sunderland Bridge.

A complement of 36 men were normally employed, consisting of—mechanic, mechanics' assistant, 8 driver-fillers, and 26 labourer fillers.

A fleet of 8 Karrier Refuse Collecting Vehicles was used for the collection and disposal of refuse at the 14 tips rented by the Council, the tipping being controlled.

Approximately 10,023 houses, (including 294 built by Durham City at Framwellgate Moor), were dealt with by direct labour, and 463 by contract.

Trade refuse was removed from Factories and Canteens at Bearpark, Belmont, and Sherburn on a rechargeable basis.

Section C.

5. Rodent Control.

During the year Rodent Control work was carried out at the Sewage Works, Sewers and Refuse Tips, 68 visits being made to the latter and 147 to Sewage Works.

There were no major infestations.

When new sewers are brought into operation feeding trays are fitted in manholes in sufficient number to cover the area.

The numbers of new trays fitted were :—

Sherburn New Site	...	15
Bowburn New Site	...	20
West Rainton New Site	...	6
Bearpark	... ..	19
Framwellgate Moor	... ..	4
Belmont	... ..	18
		—
Total	... ..	82
		—

In accordance with practice all sewers were given two treatments (that is, testing with resulting treatment where necessary). In one area only was infestation evident, and in this case it was only slight.

Business premises were treated on a rechargeable basis and private houses free of charge.

Table VI shows the number of properties inspected. (This section refers to the period of 12 months ending 31st March, 1955).

6. Salvage.

The collection of waste-paper and miscellaneous scrap material was carried out during the year with good results.

The nett proceeds of the sale of these goods were divided as follows :—60% to workmen ; 40% to the Council.

Below are details of sales, etc.,

	Weights.				Receipts.			Expenses.		
	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	38	2	0	0	277	6	10			
Scrap Metal	18	9	0	10	92	5	5			
Non-ferrous Scrap	1	6	1	22	125	16	1			
Rags	5	13	1	26	138	0	1			
Woollens		11	3	0	66	18	11			
Other Materials	—	—	—	—	2	17	6			
Wages—Baling time etc.								89	4	11
Bonus to Workmen								368	7	7
Balance to Council								245	12	4
	64	2	3	2	703	4	10	703	4	10

Section D.—Housing.

Good progress continued in the Council's post war Housing Programme, when 265 houses were completed making a post war total of 2283.

Table VII gives details of the sizes and disposition of the houses completed during the year and also for the post war period.

TABLE VII.

(a) Houses completed in 1954.

Area—Parish	Bedrooms				Unity.	Temp. Prefab.	Perm. Prefab.	Airey.	Total.	Total.
	1	2	3	4						
Western— Bearpark ..	4	30	15	6	—	—	—	—	55	55
Eastern— Leamside ..	14	8	7	6	—	—	—	—	35	108
Belmont ..	4	29	2	—	—	—	—	—	35	
Sherburn ..	6	28	4	—	—	—	—	—	38	
Southern— Bowburn ..	7	42	23	—	—	—	—	—	72	102
Kelloe ..	—	8	22	—	—	—	—	—	30	
Total ..	35	145	73	12	—	—	—	—	265	265

(b) Total Post War Houses completed.

Area—Parish.	Bedrooms.				Unity.	Temp. Prefab.	Perm. Prefab.	Airey.	Total.	Total.
	1	2	3	4						
Western—										
Witton Gilbert ..	22	22	32	—	—	12	—	16	104	—
Bearpark ..	40	106	89	6	—	—	—	20	261	—
Pity Me ..	—	16	32	—	—	—	—	—	48	—
Framwellgate Moor ..	14	66	90	28	—	—	—	—	198	611
Eastern—										
Leamside ..	18	54	47	21	2	54	35	—	231	—
Belmont ..	16	67	98	1	—	—	—	16	198	—
Shadforth ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	20	—
Sherburn ..	58	140	182	14	—	—	—	—	394	843
Southern—										
Kelloe ..	20	20	110	6	—	—	—	64	220	—
Quarrington Hill ..	—	2	16	—	—	—	47	8	73	—
Cassop ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	10	37	—
Croxdale ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	—
Bowburn ..	45	144	270	10	22	—	—	—	491	829
Total ..	233	637	966	86	24	66	109	162	2283	2283

Fifteen houses were built by private owners during the year.

As a result of informal action 65 houses were made fit under the Public Health or Housing Acts, 27 were made fit by owners as a result of formal action and 3 by the Council in default of the owners.

During the year 90 demolition orders were made making a post war total of 459.

One property was the subject of a closing order.

One hundred and forty five houses, the subject of demolition orders, were demolished and from these 508 persons were displaced.

5 houses in the Shincliffe Clearance Area were demolished and 17 persons rehoused from these.

Overcrowding—The known number of overcrowded houses at the end of 1954 was 108.

15 new cases of overcrowding were revealed during the year.

22 families (comprising 106 persons) living in overcrowded conditions were rehoused.

Rehousing—134 families were rehoused from premises subject to demolition order.

10 families were rehoused from houses the subject of clearance order.

Section E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) The 168 food shops and 8 food factories in the District were regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Registration was granted to one owner of premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream and one each for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food, and sale of fried fish and potato chips.

One registration for the sale of fried fish and potato chips was revoked.

(b) The following quantities of unwholesome food were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Beef— English	...	...	...	217 lbs.
Imported	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	16 lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	91½ lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	12½ lbs.
Suet	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	16½ lbs.
Currants	...	...	...	10¾ lbs.
Tinned Meats	...	...	...	104 tins
Tinned Fruits	...	...	...	196 tins.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	102 tins.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	6 tins.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	90 tins.
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	1 bottle.

(c) Water, Food and Drugs.

Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	53
Samples condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	1
Seizures of unwholesome food	...	...	...	166

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924-1952.

Carcases Inspected and Meat Condemned.

FROM 4TH JULY TO 31ST DEC, 1954.

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Carcases inspected	624	40	7	714	626	2011
All diseases except T.B.						
Whole carcasses condemned	.. —	—	—	—	1	1
Weight of condemned carcasses	.. ..				371 lbs.	371 lbs.
Carcases of which some part was condemned	.. 148	9	—	12	4	173
Weight of condemned parts	.. 1188 lbs.	63½ lbs.	—	33 lbs.	12 lbs.	1296½ lbs.
Percentage of carcasses and/or organs inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	.. 23.7	22.5	—	1.7	0.6	8.6

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned.. ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Weight of condemned carcasses	—	960 lbs.	—	—	—	960 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part was condemned.. ..	45	8	1	—	5	59
Weight of condemned parts	645 lbs.	71 lbs.	88	—	61½ lbs.	865½ lbs.
Percentage of number affected with T.B.	7.2	22.5	14.3	—	0.8	2.9

52 licences were issued to Slaughtermen in accordance with the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

Private slaughtering of animals commenced on July 4th, 1954, and licences were granted to 19 private slaughter-houses, after they had been brought up to the standard required by the Act. The premises are visited at least once per week by the Sanitary Inspectors and all are satisfactory each having refrigerated storage for meats.

Section F.—PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—There was no undue prevalence of notifiable infectious disease (Table VIII). No notifications were received in respect of food poisoning, ophthalmia neonatorum and typhoid fever.

Scarlet Fever—There were 24 notifications, of which three were in respect of adults. Only 6 were admitted to Hospital. In 1953 there were 28 notifications.

Whooping Cough—67 cases represented a decrease of 33 from the figure of 1953. There were no deaths attributed to the disease

Poliomyelitis—One case [notified as acute poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) was found, after investigation in Hospital not to be suffering from that condition. There were no cases notified in 1953.

Measles—89 cases as opposed to 244 the previous year. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria—Three cases were notified of which one was not confirmed.

Regarding the occurrence of cases the remarks, made in the previous Annual Report still apply, namely, that they should serve as a warning that the risk of infection with this dangerous disease is still present. Facilities for immunisation exist as before and the need for it is as great as ever.

The tables of Diphtheria Immunisation figures show that records were received of 308 children under the age of 5 having received during the year full courses of primary immunisation, the corresponding figure for 1953 being 278.

1,030 children under the age of 5 had completed a full course of immunisation by 31st December, 1954 (Table IX).

The child population figure for the District is not available. However, for the 5 years up to and including 1954, the number of live births registered in the District is 2,888 and in the same years 107 children died before reaching 1 year of age. 2,781 may be accepted as an estimate of the number of children under 5 years old in the District, of whom approximately 401 would be under 8 months old, the age from which immunisation is usually undertaken. The proportion of these children immunised, therefore, is only about 43%. This is a low figure. It seems likely that diphtheria can be eliminated only if a sufficiently high proportion of the population is immunised.

The County Medical Officer of Health arranges that, in order to draw attention to the need for immunisation, leaflets are distributed by post at 8 months and 12 months and to encourage re-inforcing doses at the age of 4 years 9 months. These give details of the facilities available.

Acute Pneumonia—There were 28 notifications as opposed to 22 the previous year. It will be seen that no age group was predominantly affected.

Dysentery—The four notified cases were children. Two were in one family. One other occurred in Hospital and was associated with an outbreak outside the District.

Paratyphoid Fever—The case was one of paratyphoid B. infection in a child aged $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. No associated cases were discovered although on investigation it was found that the child's grandmother, a frequent visitor to the home, was a symptomless carrier of the organism.

Meningococcal Infections—Two cases were notified of which only one was confirmed, a young child.

Puerperal Pyrexia—There were 17 cases notified compared with 7 in 1953. All referred to Hospital confinements.

Tuberculosis—There was a reduction in the numbers of new cases of tuberculosis notified, most marked in the case of pulmonary forms of the disease where the figure of 20 is in contrast with that of 32 in 1953 (Table X).

There were 5 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis compared with 8 in the previous year.

Section G.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	M/c. line No.	No. on Regi- ster.	Number of.			M/c. line No.
			Inspec- tions.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.	
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	2	—	—	—	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority ..	2	63	75	20	—	2
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total ..	—	65	75	20	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Premises.	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of prosec- utions	M/c line No.
		Found	Reme- died	Referred			
				To HM Inspec- -tor	ByHM Inspec- -tor		
Want of Cleanliness ..	4	3	3	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective floor drainage..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary conveniences :—							
(a) insufficient ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) unsuitable/defective	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	12	17	16	—	—	—	12
Total	60	20	19	—	—	—	60

Number of Outworkers at August, 1954 :—

Wearing Apparel	2
Household linen	1

TABLE I.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATE AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1954.

	Durham R.D.C.	England & Wales.	Durham C.C.
	Rates per 1,000 population.		
BIRTHS :			
Live	16.92	15.21	17.3
Still	0.40	0.36	0.45
per 1,000 (live and still) births.	24.3	24.0	25.2
DEATHS :			
All causes	13.33	11.30	11.5
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	0.04	0.01
Diphtheria	—	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.17	0.18	0.21
Influenza	—	0.05	0.03
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (including polio- encephalitis)	—	0.003	0.003
Pneumonia	0.37	0.48	0.32
NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED) :			
Typhoid Fever	—	0.03	0.001
Paratyphoid Fever	0.03	0.01	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	0.70	0.96	0.81
Whooping Cough	1.92	2.39	2.83
Diphtheria	0.05	0.004	0.01
Erysipelas	0.03	0.12	0.10
Smallpox	—	—	—
Measles	2.55	3.33	6.13
Pneumonia	0.80	0.60	0.79
Acute poliomyelitis (including polio- encephalitis)—			
Paralytic	—	0.03	0.07
Non-paralytic	—	0.01	0.02
Food Poisoning	—	0.20	0.17
	Rates per 1,000 live births.		
DEATHS :			
All causes under 1 year of age	29.9	25.5	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	0.85	1.72

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT FOR 1954 AND PREVIOUS YEARS. COMPARATIVE TABLE WITH ENGLAND AND WALES AND WITH DURHAM COUNTY FOR PAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 population.			Death Rate per 1,000 population.			Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.		
	Durham R.D.C.	England & Wales.	Durham C.C.	Durham R.D.C.	England & Wales.	Durham C.C.	Durham R.D.C.	England & Wales.	Durham C.C.
1944	20.5	17.6	20.9	11.4	11.6	12.1	66	46	61
1945	18.9	16.1	18.9	11.4	11.4	12.0	44	46	54
1946	22.6	19.6	21.3	10.6	11.5	11.6	50	43	49
1947	21.5	20.5	22.2	11.3	12.0	12.1	43.5	41	50
1948	18.0	17.9	20.0	9.8	10.8	11.1	64.4	34	47
1949	17.7	16.7	18.7	11.7	11.7	11.5	50.0	32	44
1950	15.2	15.8	17.8	10.6	11.6	11.8	31.1	29.8	40
1951	17.6	15.5	17.6	11.8	12.5	12.4	47.3	29.6	42
1952	17.3	15.3	17.3	13.0	11.3	10.9	36.7	27.6	33
1953	18.2	15.5	17.7	11.2	11.4	11.0	39.5	26.8	31
Mean for 10 years 1944-53	18.7	17.0	19.2	11.3	11.6	11.6	47.1	35.8	45
1954	16.9	15.2	17.3	13.3	11.3	11.5	29.9	25.5	31

TABLE III.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	4	1
Tuberculosis—Other	1	—
Syphilitic disease	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	8	11
Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	8	2
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	3
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	19
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	25
Coronary disease, angina	40	20
Hypertension with heart disease	13	6
Other heart disease	25	32
Other circulatory disease	5	9
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	8	5
Bronchitis	17	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	31	12
Motor vehicle accidents	6	—
All other accidents	11	—
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	230	164

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1954.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months. months.	3-6 months. months.	6-9 months. months.	9-12 months. months.	Total.
Acute Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Broncho pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Convulsions..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital malformation	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intracranial haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
	10	—	—	—	10	1	6	1	—	18

TABLE V.

WATER SUPPLY—RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Parish.	Classification.				Total.
	(1) Highly Satis- factory.	(2) Satis- factory.	(3) Sus- picious.	(4) Unsatis- factory.	
Bearpark	2	—	—	—	2
Brancepeth ..	7	3	14	9	33
Framwellgate Moor	5	1	2	3	11
Shadforth ..	1	—	—	—	1
Sherburn and Sherburn Hill ..	5	—	—	—	5
Witton Gilbert ..	1	—	—	—	1
	21	4	16	12	53

TABLE VI.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955.

	Type of Property				Agri- cultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	All other	Total	
1. Number of proper- ties in the District..	41	10,538	407	10,986	178
2. Number of proper- ties inspected as a result of :					
(a) notification ..	—	200	21	221	—
(b) survey under the Act	41	147	103	291	92
(c) otherwise ..	—	—	111	111	50
3. Total inspections carried out— including re- inspections... ..	41	350	42	433	—
4. Number of proper- ties inspected (in 2.) found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor ..	23	155	10	188	—
(b) Mice { Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor ..	2	45	11	58	—
5. Number of infested properties (in 4.) treated by Local Authority ..	25	200	21	246	—
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments (to be completed only if figures are readily available)		Not readily available			
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act. ..	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken ..	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of “Block” control schemes carried out... ..	—	—	1	1	—

TABLE IX.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1954.

Live Births registered.	Number of children who had/ completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31.12.54.		Records received during the year of full courses of Primary immunisation.		Records received during the year of reinforcing injections.
	Under 5	5—15	Under 5	Total	
1953	1954				0—15
608	614	1,030	3,807	308	31
					147

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF IMMUNISATION AT ANY TIME UP TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

Under 1. 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 1949	6 1948	7 1947	8 1946	9 1945	10 1944	11 1943	12 1942	13 1941	14 1940
31	237	243	273	246	273	254	198	262	164	774	309	561	534	478

Section F.

TABLE VIII.
PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications of Infectious Disease were received as follows:—

	Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic		Acute Poliomyelitis Non-paralytic		Measles.		Diphtheria.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified, all ages	12	12	30	37	—	—	—	1	40	49	2	1
Final numbers after correction. Yrs.												
0—1 ..	—	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—
1—2 ..	—	—	6	10	—	—	—	—	13	15	—	—
3—4 ..	4	6	13	13	—	—	—	—	6	12	1	—
5—9 ..	3	4	4	7	—	—	—	—	16	18	—	—
10—14 ..	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ..	12	12	30	37	—	—	—	—	40	49	2	—

	Acute pneumonia.		Dysentery.		Small-pox.		Acute Encephalitis lethargica.		Enteric or Typhoid Fever.		Paratyphoid Fever.		Erysipelas.		Food Poisoning.		Meningococcal infection.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Original Notifications ..	17	12	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	17	—	—	—
Final numbers after correction ..																						
Yrs.																						
0—5 ..	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44 ..	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 ..	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ..	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	16	12	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	17	—	—	—

TABLE X.
TUBERCULOSIS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MORTALITY RATES.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Mortality Rate 0.14 per 1,000 of the Population. Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis Mortality Rate 0.03 per 1,000 of the population.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1954.

Ages.	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0— 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ...	—	—	—	—
5—10 years ...	—	—	—	1
10—15 years ...	—	—	—	1
15—20 years ...	—	1	1	—
20—25 years ...	1	3	—	—
25—35 years ...	2	3	—	—
35—45 years ...	3	—	—	—
45—65 years ...	5	2	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—
	11	9	1	2

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER 31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
31st December, 1954	105	87	19	21	124	108
31st December, 1953	106	85	22	21	128	106

